

### ***In the Claims***

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1        1. [Currently amended] A method for maintaining in a  
2        digital computer system synchronization of ledger accounts  
3        between a back-end procurement system and a front-end  
4        requisition and catalog system on behalf of a plurality of  
5        customer companies of an enterprise providing procurement  
6        services to a plurality of company groups, each said company  
7        group including a different plurality of said customer  
8        companies, comprising the steps of:

9                associating a plurality of said customer companies  
10                within a company group, said customer companies within  
11                said company group storing in respective storage  
12                devices ~~using~~ a same chart of accounts which varies  
13                with respect to a chart of accounts associated with a  
14                different company group of customer companies of said  
15                enterprise;

16                maintaining a requisition and catalog system in  
17                respective digital computer systems at each said  
18                customer company;

19                maintaining said chart of accounts in a digital storage  
20                device at said back-end procurement system at said  
21                enterprise;

22                periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,  
23                account identification indicia and descriptive  
24                information for a given customer company;

25 communicating said account identification indicia and  
26 descriptive information to said requisition and catalog  
27 system for each said customer company of a given  
28 company group;

29 at said requisition and catalog system, storing said  
30 indicia and information ~~in a data~~ in an electronic data  
31 store of valid general ledger accounts associated with  
32 said company group for said given customer company;

33 associating commodity codes with said account  
34 identification indicia;

35 pushing commodity code/account identification  
36 associations to all other companies in said company  
37 group of said given customer company;

38 responsive to a user request for a requisition of a  
39 commodity, providing to a user interface of a computer  
40 display device a selection list of valid account codes  
41 and descriptions authorized for purchase by users from  
42 companies within said company group to facilitate  
43 selection by a user of a correct account code for said  
44 commodity.

2-3. [Canceled]

1 4. [Currently amended] A digital computer system for  
2 operating a procurement accounting system for a plurality of  
3 customer companies of an enterprise providing procurement  
4 services to a plurality of company groups, each said company  
5 group including a different plurality of said customer

6 companies, comprising:

7 a first digital computing device for implementing a  
8 back-end procurement system;

9 a second digital computing device for implementing a  
10 front-end requisition and catalog system;

11 a first chart of accounts store maintained in an  
12 electronic storage device at said procurement system;

13 a second chart of accounts maintained in an electronic  
14 storage device at said requisition and catalog system  
15 of a given customer company within a given group of  
16 customer companies which differs from a chart of  
17 accounts for a different group of said customer  
18 companies;

19 an extract utility at said procurement system for  
20 periodically extracting from said first chart of  
21 accounts[[,]] digital signals representing account  
22 identification indicia and descriptive information for  
23 a given company;

24 an update utility at said requisition and catalog  
25 system for associating said account identification  
26 indicia with commodity codes and company group codes;

27 a data store for storing digital signals representing  
28 said indicia and information;

29 a company group table for storing company identifiers

30 associated with each of a plurality of company group  
31 codes in an electronic storage device;

32 said update utility further for pushing to all  
33 companies within a company group code associations of  
34 commodity codes and account identification indicia  
35 entered for a given company within said company group  
36 codes; and

37 an output device responsive to a user request for a  
38 purchase of a commodity for displaying a selection list  
39 of valid account codes and descriptive information for  
40 said company group code.

5-7. [Canceled]

1 8. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable  
2 by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions  
3 executable by a machine to perform method steps for  
4 maintaining synchronization of ledger accounts between a  
5 back-end procurement system and a front-end requisition and  
6 catalog system on behalf of a plurality of customer  
7 companies of an enterprise providing procurement services to  
8 a plurality of company groups, each said company group  
9 including a different plurality of said customer companies,  
10 ~~said method steps~~ comprising:

11 a computer readable storage medium;

12 first program instructions for associating a plurality  
13 of customer companies within a company group, said  
14 customer companies within said group using a same chart

15 of accounts which differs from a chart of accounts for  
16 a different group of said customer companies;

17 second program instructions for maintaining a chart of  
18 accounts in said procurement system;

19 third program instructions for periodically extracting  
20 from said chart of accounts, account identification  
21 indicia and descriptive information for a given  
22 company;

23 fourth program instructions for communicating said  
24 indicia and information to said requisition and catalog  
25 system of said given company;

26 fifth program instructions at said requisition and  
27 catalog system, for storing said indicia and  
28 information in a data store of valid general ledger  
29 accounts associated with said company group code for  
30 said given customer company;

31 sixth program instructions for associating commodity  
32 codes with said account identification indicia;

33 seventh program instructions for pushing commodity  
34 code/account identification associations to all other  
35 companies in said company group of said given customer  
36 company; [[and]]

37 eighth program instructions responsive to a user  
38 request for a requisition of a commodity, for providing  
39 a selection list of valid account codes and

40 descriptions authorized for purchase by users from  
41 companies within said company group; and wherein  
42 said first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth,  
43 seventh, and eighth program instructions are recorded  
44 on said computer readable storage medium.

1 9. [Currently amended] A ~~computer program product or~~  
2 computer program storage element for storing as digital  
3 signals program instructions for controlling the operation  
4 of a computer for maintaining synchronization of ledger  
5 accounts between a back-end procurement system and a front-  
6 end requisition and catalog system on behalf of a plurality  
7 of customer companies of an enterprise providing procurement  
8 services to a plurality of company groups, each said company  
9 group including a different plurality of said customer  
10 companies, said computer program element according to method  
11 steps comprising:

12 first program instructions for associating a plurality  
13 of companies within a company group, companies within  
14 said group using a same chart of accounts which differs  
15 from a chart of accounts for a different group of said  
16 companies;

17 second program instructions for maintaining a chart of  
18 accounts in said procurement system;

19 third program instructions for periodically extracting  
20 from said chart of accounts, account identification  
21 indicia and descriptive information for a given  
22 customer company;

23 fourth program instructions for communicating said  
24 indicia and information to said requisition and catalog  
25 system;

26 at said requisition and catalog system, fifth program  
27 instructions for storing said indicia and information  
28 in a data store of valid general ledger accounts  
29 associated with said company group code for said given  
30 customer company;

31 sixth program instructions for associating commodity  
32 codes with said account identification indicia;

33 seventh program instructions for pushing commodity  
34 code/account identification associations to all other  
35 companies in said company group of said given customer  
36 company; and

37 eighth program instructions responsive to a user  
38 request for a requisition of a commodity, for providing  
39 a selection list of valid account codes and  
40 descriptions authorized for purchase by users from  
41 companies within said company group; and wherein said  
42 first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh,  
43 and eighth program instructions are recorded on said  
44 computer program storage element.

10-11. [Canceled]